

Ulverston to the memory of Sir John Barrow. —The new church of Seghill, says a Newcastle paper, was consecrated on Saturday week. It is in the Early English style, and will accommodate 530 persons, mostly free. The cost of erection and site is about 1,700*l*. Mr. John Green supplied the design. —Another small church was consecrated on Tuesday week at Newton Arlosh, parish of Holmes Cultram; one at Skinbessness on the day following; and on Thursday one at Mowbray, near Allonby. —A model lodging-house has been formally opened at Aberdeen, under the auspices of the Lord Provost. Charges per night 3*d*. a-head.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

ABOUT 3,000 tons of a cutting near Warmsworth church, on the South Yorkshire line, gave way on Monday week, leaving a void about 30 yards in length and 10 in breadth, extending from the top to the bottom of the cutting. The sides of the gullet are said to have been too perpendicular, but the late rains are chiefly blamed for the result. Another large portion was left in a very critical position, with a large fissure nearly 50 yards further off. —The pressing necessity for the free transit to guards along a train was instanced lately, as it so often is in one way or other, in a case where the tire of a wheel was gone and the carriage off the line. Although the luggage-van with the guard was at hand, and the guard was at length made aware of the danger to those within the carriage, he stood in the absurd position of a 'guard' without power to afford the least assistance, while the train was running at the rate of 25 to 30 miles an hour. 'Bawling till hoarse' to the driver was of no use; and the carriage was dragged on for a number of miles, with the passengers in continued and unbearable consciousness of their imminent peril, till the train eventually stopped. —Since the opening of railways, the useful article, milk, has flowed into Liverpool in such abundance that the 'genuine article' now costs only half what its anomalous representative used to be sold at in stinted quantities. —On the list of applicants for situations on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lancashire line, there are upwards of 800 names! —A Liverpool merchant, complaining in the *Times* of the 'extraordinary delay' of the Electric Telegraph Company on a recent occasion of commercial importance, says, —"It was a matter of great importance to numerous parties both in Liverpool and America that this intelligence should have been posted in that establishment in time for the parties interested to have included the fact in their communications by the American mail steamer sailing on that day. It is remarkable, however, that on the Saturday, when the steamer sails at an earlier hour —the very day on which it is necessary that news should be posted early—the telegraphic intelligence is not posted till the steamer is away."

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A SPECIAL court was held on Thursday 26th. The Earl of Carlisle in the chair.

The appointment of a new Order Clerk. —The report of the general committee on the appointment of a successor to Mr. Hertalet, as order clerk, was brought up and read. It stated, that it having been considered desirable that a person having a knowledge of the law should be selected, the committee were unanimous in opinion that Mr. Woolrych, of the Inner Temple, should be recommended to the court as a fit and proper person to fill that office. [After some conversation Mr. Woolrych was appointed.]

The Earl of Carlisle said he could not, on this occasion, forbear to convey the general sentiments of the court to their late officer, Mr. Hertalet, and their deep regret at the circumstances that had led to their separation from him.

The Cholera. —A letter was read from the Home Office, calling the attention of the commissioners to upwards of 600 complaints of nuisances and drainage made during the previous week by the inspectors of police of the various metropolitan and suburban divisions.

These reports were referred to the surveyor. A memorial was presented from the inhabitants of Dulwich, in public meeting assembled at the Half Moon Tavern, complaining of the condition of that

district, and stating that the fatal effects of the offensive drainage and open ditches had struck terror into the minds of the people, and calling upon the commissioners to cover over the open ditches.

The Earl of Carlisle remarked that they had been told by a deputation, a few days since, that in covering over an open ditch they had only aggravated the evil.

Some remarks having been made on the subject of the process of flushing.

Mr. Leslie said, there appeared to be great diversity of opinion on this subject, for last year their surveyor, Mr. Roe, had ordered flushing to be suspended, and he believed that it was so suspended for upwards of three months. Even their own officers were divided in opinion on the propriety of it. Mr. Lovick was in favour of it, while Mr. Gotto was opposed to it, and in a report had set forth that this practice only aggravated the evil it was intended to cure. Mr. Leslie then deprecated the practice of coroners holding inquests on persons dying of bowel complaints, which statements were got hold of by the reporters, and great and unnecessary alarm was created amongst weak-minded persons.

Mr. Chadwick supported the system, but contended that the operation ought to be superintended by a competent person, as had been recommended in the second notification of the Board of Health.

Mr. Lovick and Mr. Gotto having expressed their opinions for and against flushing in particular cases.

Dr. Southwood Smith said it appeared to be overlooked the difference that had taken place in the mode of cleansing by means of a discharge of the cesspools into the sewers, and the old mode of cartage. He thought the court should investigate the matter, whether there had really been an injury or not; but without medical testimony, to go into such investigation would be quite absurd.

The Tunnel Sewer for the Metropolis. —A question was referred by the Finance Committee as to the payments to be allowed to surveyors and others for the cost of surveys, levels, borings, &c., undertaken with reference to plans for the drainage of London.

Mr. Hawes said the reason for bringing this before the court was an impression on the mind of the Finance Committee, that at the last court when the subject of the tunnel sewer was under consideration, it appeared to be the opinion of the court that no expense should be incurred in the production of plans, &c., for the same. Now, certain charges on this score had been sent in to the committee, and they wished the opinion of the court as to how far they were justified in allowing the same, and paying the expenses incurred.

Mr. Chadwick thought they should give a liberal interpretation of the orders of the court in the payment of small incidental expenses, relying on the discretion of the officers as to the amount of them.

A member remarked, that as the Ordnance Survey Committee had already ordered borings to be made for the purposes of Mr. Austin's plan in Orchard-street, Westminster, it would be only fair to allow Mr. Phillips the same advantages. He wished to ask Mr. Austin what sum had been expended in these borings?

Mr. Austin said that they amounted to about 70*l*.

Mr. Bullar read an extract from a letter received from Mr. Hutton, who, he stated, was an eminent geologist, and who gave it as his opinion that the plan was impracticable; in fact, the difficulties were so great as to discourage any one but a madman or an ignoramus, and as to boring with a view to information, it would be only so much money thrown away.

The Earl of Carlisle thought all parties should have fair play, although he was unwilling to incur any preliminary expense.

Mr. Leslie said the parties who commenced the first tunnel under the Thames in 1801, got within 150 feet of the opposite shore without laying a single brick. They proposed to brick as they went on, and if 940 feet could be done without bricks at all, he did not think the difficulties insurmountable. Geologists were fond of riding their hobby, and such being the case he would only be satisfied from borings, especially as he knew that in digging a well for Greenwich Hospital, they got into chalk at 100 feet. If they got into the chalk he apprehended there would be no difficulty in forming a tunnel through it with the assistance of their engines in pumping out the water that might make its way during the progress of the work.

Mr. Phillips stated, unless he was allowed the borings, that he should be brought to a stand-still, and his plan would at once fall to the ground. They would cost from 150*l*. to 200*l*.

Mr. Bullar said that the public would be unwilling to go to 2,000*l*. or 3,000*l*. expense for them; for, if Mr. Phillips's was not the best plan in an engineering point of view, the expense of borings would be thrown away. He complained that the subject had been hurriedly forced upon them, and that a "row" had been got up out of doors. That paper, the *Times*, he said, had taken the lead in this; but now, in consequence of the discussion

that had taken place at the last court, they began to think that there were difficulties in the way, and were anxious to back out of it. However, he trusted that in executing a work that was so last for ages, they would not be hurried on in its consideration, but would take their own course, independently of any newspaper whatever.

After some further discussion the following resolutions were agreed to:—

"That the expense already incurred for surveys, levels, borings, &c., referred by the Finance Committee to the court, be allowed."

"That, as Mr. Phillips states that 200*l*. will be necessary for all the borings, &c. requisite for his plan, the court sanctions his expending on them a sum not exceeding that amount."

Miscellaneous.

MURAL PAINTINGS, PLASTERED AND WHITEWASHED. —At Winchfield Church, Hants, recently, some workmen found, beneath a thick coat of plaster, the remains of painting which at one time appeared to have entirely covered the walls. The rector procured a respite, and Mr. Baigent, of Winchester, made tracings and drawings, produced at a recent meeting of the Archaeological Association. Mr. Waller described the chief subject to be that of "the rich man and Lazarus," and stated that it possessed some artistic and religious interest. This, we are told, makes the fifth instance of the preservation, by the association, of church mural paintings found in Hampshire; but the spirit of destruction at Northwood Church, Isle of Wight, was too rapid for the conservative pencil of members who resided almost within call. Some frescoes, described as of a superior kind, were laid open a week or two ago, and a churchwarden, or some person invested with a brief authority, had them effectually destroyed. A representation of "the last judgment" in Shorwell Church was re-whitewashed about three years since, while a gentleman was engaged in making a copy for the association; but the churchwardens have preserved the legend of St. Christopher, which the association has engraved.

BETHNAL GREEN. —A correspondent from the Mile-end-road, who signs himself "F. Creary," draws attention to the state of premises in Cambridge-road, and complains of want of attention on the part of the local board and the Metropolitan Sewers Commission after repeated application. He says: "The houses have a ditch running behind them, of which recently one of the tenants has stopped the course: the result is, that a quantity of stagnant matter from the adjoining privies, accumulates frequently to the depth of 2 feet, which cannot be carried off except by the influence of the atmosphere. I think that from what I have stated there can be no doubt of the unhealthy and dangerous condition of the locality alluded to; if there be any such doubt, I would mention the fact of several visits from the superior board, who have always stated that it was so bad that were cholera to ensue, they should not be surprised; and since the last visit one of the occupants of the house No. 15 has died, which death the medical gentleman who attended him considers to have been accelerated by the unwholesome state of the locality."

DOOR-KNOB COMPOSITION. —Mr. John Harrison, Stillwater, Saratoga county, New York, has patented an improvement consisting in the compounding of the following materials, calcined, pulverized, and ground, viz.:—bone, 10 parts; black flint, 4 parts; crystal felspar, 10 parts; granite, 10 parts; Vermont white sand, 10 parts; China clay, 11 parts; chromate of potash, 1 part; litharge, 1 part; antimony, 1 part; chrome green, 1 part; oxide of iron, 3 parts; oxide of tin, 1 part; oxide of zinc, 1 part; oxide of manganese, 4 parts. The articles are ground in water, and constitute the body and everything necessary for the manufacture.

OMNIBUS STATISTICS. —From returns just made by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, it appears that the total number of omnibuses now plying for hire in the metropolis is 3,000, paying duty, including mileage, averaging 9*l*. per month each, or 324,000*l*. per annum. The number of conductors and drivers is about 7,000, who pay annually 1,750*l*. for their licenses.